

**Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee
Government Issue Paper
Secure Lanes Subcommittee
Trade Partnership and Engagement Working
Group**

December 2024



**U.S. Customs and
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**Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism/Office of Field Operations
Secure Trade Lanes Subcommittee
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Action Required: Informational

Background:

- The Commercial Customs Operations Advisory Committee (COAC) Trusted Trader Working Group changed its name to Trade Partnership and Engagement (TPE) Working Group.
- The previous COAC subcommittee provided U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) with recommendations for the transition from the Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) program to the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT) Trade Compliance program.
 - Former ISA participants were automatically enrolled in the CTPAT Trade Compliance program and new applicants could apply beginning August 1, 2022.

Issue:

- The revised Statement of Work for the TPE Working Group shifts its emphasis towards the CTPAT Security program, while still advancing the Trade Compliance program.
 - By altering the focus from Trade Compliance importers to all security entities, a wider range of trade stakeholders can offer feedback and interact with CBP regarding the CTPAT program.
 - This expanded focus has strengthened partnerships and advanced program development in alignment with the prevailing trade environment.
- Continuing from the previous session, the COAC TPE Working Group is addressing:
 - Expanding the CTPAT program.
 - Standardizing the validation process.
 - Reviewing current benefits and proposing additional benefits for CTPAT partners.
 - Evaluating metrics that assess and quantitatively measure the effectiveness of benefits for both industry and government.
 - Proposing a strategic interagency partnership engagement approach to trusted traders.
 - Providing input on areas of CTPAT Trade Compliance related to benefits not previously recommended.

Current Status:

- The group has met several times this quarter to review outstanding COAC recommendations.

Next Steps:

- Moving forward, the group will focus on four areas of the CTPAT Security program: 1) minimum security criteria; 2) validations; 3) quantifying and measuring benefit effectiveness; and 4) improving communications across the program.

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